



The Fortarian

April 14th, 2021

Rotary Club of Thunder Bay (Fort William)

2020/2021 Board of Directors

President: Cynthia Judge
 Interim Secretary: Stephen Margarit
 Assistant Secretary: Irene Sottile
 Treasurer: Sante Sottile
 President Elect: Dawn Sebesta
 Past President: Stephen Margarit
 Meets: 3rd Tuesday of each month,
 RBC Royal Bank, Board Room
 1159 Alloy Drive , 6.30pm

Website www.fwrotary.ca

Directors:
 Irene Sottile
 Robert Moore
 Mary Ann Breton
 Bev Knutson
 Jodi Phillips
 Jill Zachary

Allocations Committee

Chair: Bob Hookham
 Meets: 2nd Tuesday of each month,
 Weiler Maloney Nelson Board Room 12 noon.

Rotary House Lottery Committee

Chair: Dave Knutson
 Meets: 1st Tuesday of each month,
 Weiler Maloney Nelson, 12 noon.

Semi-monthly Zoom Meetings

Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.
 Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday

Mailing Address

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 Thunder Bay, ON
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Newsletter Editors

Erle Wheatley & Brian Phillips

Meeting of April 14th, 2021

President Cynthia Judge welcomed everyone to the meeting. Bob Hookham gave the toast to the Queen. President Cynthia then read the Land Acknowledgement. Honorary Rotarian Diane Silen was in attendance at the meeting. Stephen Margarit welcomed Stephanie Paxton to the meeting. She is the Foundation Coordinator at George Jeffrey Children's Foundation. She is a graduate of Lakehead University where she earned a degree in Marketing and Communications. Stephanie is the alternate for the George Jeffrey Children's Foundation.

Mary Ann Breton introduced the speaker for the evening. John Mason is a Registered Professional Geoscientist in the province of Ontario. He earned an Honour's Bachelor of Science in geology from Lakehead University. In 2011, John joined the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission as Project Manager, Mining Services. John presented on the Mining Readiness Strategy.

Northwestern Ontario is in a good position to capitalize on economic development in the area of mining in the upcoming years. In order to be prepared for this, the City of Thunder Bay and the CEDC commissioned a mining strategy to be developed. Stakeholders were interviewed. Data and information was collected and the strategic recommendations were developed.

Mine supply and services are an important aspect of the strategy. Approximately 400 agencies, regionally, are engaged in this area. In the province of Ontario, there are estimated to be 26,000 direct jobs and 46,000 indirect jobs related to the mining industry.

Northwestern Ontario currently has six operating mines (gold and palladium) and fifteen major exploration sites (gold, palladium, and lithium.) Seven hundred and ninety thousand ounces of gold and two hundred thousand ounces of palladium are produced per year in the region.

The top interview themes from the mining stakeholders feedback were:

1. The promotion of Thunder Bay as a full-service hub.
2. Exploration and mining companies prefer to buy local.
3. There is an emerging opportunity for mineral processing.
4. There is a great need for skilled trades.
5. Thunder Bay has the infrastructure to promote growth; however, there are road and electrical supply infrastructure challenges in the region.

In a 20-year employment projection, it is estimated that there will be a one hundred percent increase in mine operations jobs.

In terms of electrical infrastructure, there will be an estimated 180% increase in electricity demand from new mines in 2026. Very large electricity demands are forecast for Red Lake, Fort Frances, and Greenstone. These areas, however, have some of the oldest power lines in the province.

Precious metal production is forecast to double in northwestern Ontario in the next decade. It is estimated that by 2025, 8 billion dollars will be injected into the economy from mining.

President Cynthia thanked John for his presentation. She then called upon Bob Hookham for the Allocations Committee report. That group, however, had not had their monthly meeting.

David Knutson gave the House Lottery report. The tickets have sold out. The cash draws continue. David thanked everyone who had helped to make the draw a success.

Dawn Sebesta, Program Committee Chair, talked about the work of that committee. Tasks include finding speakers for club meetings; organizing special event such as the Valentine Day party; and getting members to fill program tasks. The committee budget is used for special events. The committee will require a Chair for next year, as Dawn will be club President. Jodi Philips has offered to be Chair but she would like to share the duties with someone else.

Mary Ann Breton attended the Women in Rotary District event that was held online on April 1. She recommended visiting the website and viewing the videos. Caesar Ogbemor did the Lighter Side.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

April 26-May 1: District Conference.

Registration: <https://www.bemidji2021.com/>

April 28: Committee chairs will discuss the work of their committees.

May 1: Speaker TBA

May 26: Progress report on club Visioning; President Elect Dawn Sebesta outlines her year.

Editor – Brian

Scribe – Bev Knutson

Photos - n/a

